

Ag for Life

FEEDLOTS...

Feed  lots!



CATTLE
IN THE FEEDLOT



Feedlot Facts

In Canada, cattle spend most of their lives on pasture, grazing on grass and then move to feedlots to grow and gain important body fat and muscle. Here the focus is on nutrition. This happens by making sure the animal has a steady, high energy diet and is healthy and relaxed.



This diet is usually made up of both grain and forages like silage and hay. This ensures a balance of health, growth, and meat quality. In Canada, grains that humans can't eat, like certain parts of barley and corn, are usually used.

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Before cattle move into the feedlot pens, the cattle handlers give each animal a unique ear tag with a number. These numbers are used so the handlers can keep track of the cattle's weight, age, breed, and history. This information improves cattle welfare by allowing the handlers to know more about each animal and what they need.



Cattle are checked by qualified staff to ensure they are healthy and vaccinated against disease. Cattle are then moved into large pens, allowing each animal lots of room to behave naturally and be comfortable. Most of the cattle coming into feedlots are between 227–408 kilograms and are around 6–11 months old.



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Cattle in the pens are checked daily for signs of illness, stress, and injury. If the animals need help, they are immediately separated and diagnosed, then treated by a veterinarian. They do not return to the herd until they are healthy again. Cattle normally stay in a feedlot for an average of 100 days or until they reach a weight of around 544 kilograms.



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